

**WORLD HEALTH
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In reply please refer to: H9/370/6(2)B
Prière de rappeler la référence: OEV/ds

20 August 1975

Dear Professor Lederberg,

Egon Diczfalusy has shared with us your very interesting letter of 8 July. I fully agree with you that the realization of the prospect of producing large quantities of specific human antibody globulins, particularly by DNA insertion, would greatly influence our abilities in the field of human reproduction by being able to use broadly the cheap methods of passive immunity for fertility regulation. I fully agree with you also that we need greater experience with passive immunization with anti-sperm or anti-gonadotrophin antibodies and this is just what we are starting to do. If you or your colleagues would like to participate in such studies we would be delighted to have your specific suggestions. The WHO supported bank of sera containing anti-sperm antibodies which has just become operational (see attached progress report) can be used for these studies. We shall pass your suggestion "to look into the anti-sperm component of the pooled gamma globulin which is used in a variety of prophylactic ways" on to Professor T. Hjort for further consideration. The same may be applied to your analogous idea about antigonadotrophic hormone activities.

I was also very interested in your suggestion to attempt to get specific antibody preparations directed against the active sites of gonadotrophins. Studies in this direction are already underway. Dr V. Stevens from Columbus, Ohio is trying to produce specific antibodies directed against the active site of B-subunit of HCG. Dr Mougdal from Bangalore, India claims that he has extremely specific antisera against FSH.

Professor J. Lederberg
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Enc.

cc: Professor E. Diczfalusy

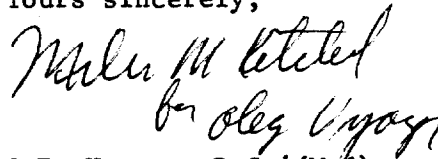
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Regarding the literature on immunology and immunochemistry of reproduction which you asked for I am sending under separate cover the manuscript of the Proceedings of the Workshop on Immunology of Human Spermatozoa which took place in Aarhus, Denmark in 1974, as well as the manuscripts of the WHO supported paper to be presented at the International Symposium on Immunology of Reproduction to be held next month in Varna, Bulgaria. Needless to say that until all of them are published they should be treated on a confidential basis.

I remain with kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mikhail M. Litcher" on the top line and "for Oleg Vyazov" on the bottom line.

O.E. Vyazov, D.Sci(Med)
Medical Officer
Human Reproduction Unit